

both *āus* and *āman*, were reported to have yielded only half an average crop, while the outturn of pulses was estimated at five-sixths of that of an ordinary year. Relief measures were organized by the local authorities under Government orders. Charitable aid, both in the shape of cooked and uncooked food, was given to those who were unable to work, advances were made to cultivators through their landlords, and relief works were opened to give employment to the able-bodied poor.

Although the distress in the district did not anywhere approach an actual famine, there were three months of scarcity during which the condition of the people was critical. In May 1874 many of the cultivators in the two most distressed *thānas* in the Sirājganj subdivision were living on insufficient food, and some of them were in an emaciated condition. Many of those who are ordinarily dependent on private charitable relief would also have probably died from starvation, had Government aid not been afforded. The recipients of relief consisted chiefly of widows with families, sick labourers, old men without children, and others who in Bengal are in ordinary years supported by their neighbours.

During the latter half of the month of May 1874, the average price of common husked rice in the Rāiganj police circle was Rs. 5-5-4 per maund, and at one time the price rose to Rs. 6-10-8. Even wholesale purchases were made at Sirājganj at the rate of Rs. 4 per maund, and at Ullāpāra at Rs. 4-4. The average price of common husked rice in the Sadar subdivision during May 1874 was Rs. 3-1 per maund, and in the Sirājganj subdivision Rs. 3-9-2. Compared with present-day rates these prices are not alarming, but at that time the average price throughout the district in a good year during the same month was Re. 1-8-6 per maund, and in 1874 it was considered that the famine point was reached when rice sold in January for more than Rs. 4 per maund.

The total cost of the charitable relief given by or through Government in 1874 was Rs. 83,000; and the amount spent on roads and relief works was Rs. 28,000, making a total famine outlay of Rs. 1,11,000. In addition to this expenditure, Rs. 76,000 in money and grain was advanced to cultivators through their landlords, from whom security was taken for the repayment of the loans.

There were heavy floods in the Sadar subdivision in 1890. In the town of Pābna the southern portion of the civil and

FLOODS OF
1890.

criminal courts was flooded by the Ichhāmati, which had joined forces with the Padma, and many metalled and unmetalled roads were submerged and seriously damaged. Almost the whole of the town was more or less under water for nearly a month. After this, an embankment with sluice-gates was constructed along the right bank of the Ichhāmati to protect the town from further inundations.

FLOODS OF
1905.

In August 1906 there were serious floods which affected nearly the whole of the district, many villages being submerged and roads being breached. In the Sadar subdivision one-third to one-half of the *aus* crop had been harvested, but the rest of the crop was almost wholly destroyed; in the Sirājganj subdivision two-thirds of this crop had been reaped before the floods, but the greater part of the rice still on the ground was destroyed or seriously damaged.

CYCLONE OF
1864.

On 5th October 1864 Pābna was visited by a hurricane, which swept in from the Bay of Bengal accompanied by a storm wave, which along the Hooghly was an even more potent agent of destruction than the violence of the wind. The storm crossed the Ganges between Rāmpur-Boāha and Pābna, swept the whole length of the Bogra district, and curving to the eastward became expended in the Gāro Hills. It caused widespread destruction of houses and trees, and at Pābna many of the Government buildings were severely damaged.

CYCLONE OF
1872

On the 20th September 1872 another severe cyclone swept over Pābna and lasted from 11 A.M. till nightfall. In this space of time it caused widespread destruction. In the town of Pābna about 20,000 fruit trees were blown down, and 5,000 houses and huts levelled to the ground. At Sirājganj the Subdivisional Officer's house was unroofed, every police building and Government office was blown down, and almost all the records were destroyed. The Mymensingh-Sirājganj mail-boat sank in the Jamuna; a steamer and two flats were driven high on the bank of the Hurāsagar river; another steamer had the whole of its upper deck and both funnels blown away; over 100 large country boats were sunk; and serious injury was done to the crops.

EARTH-
QUAKES.

An earthquake in 1885 did considerable damage to masonry buildings, especially at Sirājganj. The earthquake which took place on 12th June 1897 was far more serious. At Sirājganj the upper storey of the subdivisional office, the jail and the post-office were wrecked. Almost every other masonry building was severely shaken or damaged. The gunny-bag factory

of Andrew Yule & Co. was shattered, and the Company removed its business. The site was sold and part of it was subsequently acquired for the railway station. In Pābna the Court houses and the other brick buildings were damaged; and in the interior fissures opened in the earth and many wells were choked with sand and silt.

CHAPTER VI.

AGRICULTURE.

GENERAL
CONDITIONS

AGRICULTURAL conditions differ in the two subdivisions, the difference being determined by their natural configuration. The Sirājganj subdivision consists mostly of low land traversed by many rivers and streams, the rise of which in the rains, combined with the spill water of the Jamuna, practically submerges the country. The annual inundation serves a double purpose, for it not only supplies the moisture necessary for the crops, and especially rice, but it renews the fertility of the soil by the deposition of silt. In the Sadar subdivision, on the other hand, the land is comparatively high, except in part of the Mathura thāna along the river Jamuna.

Soils

The whole district consists of recent alluvium, suitable for a large variety of crops, but there are three main classes of land, viz., the high land, which is of a loamy texture, the *bil* land, which consists of a clay soil, and the *char* lands formed by the alluvial action of the rivers. Lands of the last class have a sandy soil or consist of a sandy loam according to their age, those of recent origin being almost pure sand; *doḍsh* is the name given to soil of which the composition is half sand.

Irrigation

Owing to the copious rainfall and the annual flooding of the land by the rivers, artificial irrigation is unnecessary, the *rabi* lands retaining sufficient moisture and there being no want of water for the cold weather crops if there is timely winter rain. Irrigation from wells, tanks and streams is, however, resorted to for the cultivation of potatoes, which has been introduced recently; water is scooped up by means either of the bamboo basket called *seuni* or of the *don*, a trough made out of the trunk of a palm-tree. Water from wells is raised by the bamboo lever working on an upright, called the *lāta*.

Manures.

Very little manure, if any, is necessary in the low lands as they are fertilized annually by the silt-laden floods, but as jute is a crop which responds to heavy manuring, sunn hemp is

This chapter has been compiled from notes kindly contributed by Babu Shabatoosh Dutta, Superintendent of Agriculture, Rajshahi Division, and Mr. G. Evans, C.S.A., Director of Agriculture, Bengal.

grown as a green manure on land devoted to its cultivation. The sunn hemp, which is raised in the winter season, is ploughed into the ground, which it enriches. In no other district except Mymensingh, where the cultivators have borrowed the practice from Pābna, is green manuring for the jute crop resorted to. High lands in the Sadar subdivision, on which sugarcane and jute are grown, are manured with any cowdung that can be spared, but this valuable manure is not available for ordinary use, for the people are dependent on it for fuel, the only other fuel in common use being dry jute sticks from which the fibre has been extracted.

The agricultural implements are of the same simple kind as Implements. have been used from time immemorial, such as the wooden plough with a narrow tongue share, the wooden harrow (*bida*) country-made weeding forks (*khurpi*) and sickles. The three-rollered sugarcane mill and iron-pan manufactured by Renwick & Co. of Kushtia, in the Nadia district, have replaced the wooden roller and the earthenware pan (*hāndi*), but the last is still used for making molasses from the juice of the date-palm.

An unusually large proportion of the cultivated area bears PRINCIPAL CROPS. two or even more crops; according to the returns of the Agricultural Department, the actual area which is cropped more than once is 666,000 acres. This feature in the agricultural economy of the district is of importance, for it is a security against scarcity, the cultivators not being so liable to suffer from the destruction of one crop by drought or heavy floods. The following is a statement of the normal area under different crops:—

Food-grains—		Acres.	Acres.
Rice	<i>Aman</i>	... 566,000	
	<i>Aus</i>	... 140,000	
	<i>Boro</i>	... 7,500	
Total Rice		...	713,500
Wheat	...	... 16,000	
Barley	...	... 16,000	
Gram	...	... 20,000	
Other food-grains including pulses.	including	124,000	
			176,000
Total food-grains		...	889,500

Oil seeds—			Acres.	Acres.
Linseed	...	...	7,600	
Til	...	...	40,500	
Rape and mustard	...	...	110,000	
				158,100
Condiments and spices	..	...		5,500
Crops grown for sugar—				
Sugarcane	...	...	10,000	
Other	...	...	900	
				10,900
Fibres—				
Jute	...	...	126,000	
Sunn hemp	...	...	29,000	
				155,000
Tobacco	...	..	...	7,000
Fodder crops	...	..	...	3,500
Fruits and vegetables	...	...	...	2,000
Miscellaneous—				
Food	...	...	30,000	
Non-food	...	...	9,500	
				39,500
GRAND TOTAL			...	1,271,000

Particulars of the times at which the different crops are sown and harvested, as well as of the seed-rate and yield per acre, are given in the statement below :—

	Seed time	Seed-rate per acre.	Harvest time.	Yield per acre.
K Aman, long-stemmed, sown in lowlands.	Broadcasted in April.	30 bags ...	Dec.-Jan. ...	24 to 30 mds. of grain.
L Aman, upland, transplanted.	Seedbed May. Transplanted June-July.	15 „ ...	Ditto ..	Ditto
M Aus in clear lands	Broadcast in April.	30 „ ...	July „ ...	18 to 20 mds.
N Aus in uplands	Broadcast in May.	30 „ ...	August ...	Ditto
O Boro, etc.	Seedbed January. Transplanted February.	15 „ ...	May ...	24 to 30 mds.
P Barley	Oct.-Nov.	30 „ ...	March-April ...	12 mds.
Q Wheat	Ditto	1 md. ...	Ditto ...	10 to 12 mds.

	Seed time	Seed rate per acre	Harvest time.	Yield per acre.
1. <i>Kes</i> (<i>Panicum Italicum</i>)	April May	5 srs.	July August	6 mds.
2. <i>Ahadi</i> (<i>Lathyrus sativus</i>)	Sept. Oct.	4 md	Feb.-March	8 "
10. <i>Mug</i> (<i>Phaseolus mungo</i>)	Ditto	5 srs	Dec. Jan.	6 "
11. <i>Kale</i> (<i>Phaseolus acutifolium</i>)	Aug. Oct.	6	Ditto	6 "
12. <i>Pas</i> (<i>Pisum arvense</i>)	Oct. Nov.	10	Feb. March	6 "
13. <i>Raher</i> (<i>Cajanus indicus</i>)	June July	6	March April	6
14. <i>Lentil</i> (<i>Vicia ervilia</i>)	Oct. Nov.	12	Feb. March	6
15. <i>Grain</i> (<i>Cicer arietinum</i>)	Ditto	20 "	March	6
16. <i>Rape and mustard</i> (<i>Brassica sp.</i>)	Sept. Oct.	4	Feb. March	4 to 6 mds.
17. <i>Fl</i> (<i>Ginger ly</i>) (<i>Sesamum indicum</i>)	January	9	June	6 mds
18. <i>Linseed</i>	Oct. Nov.	9	Feb. March	6
19. <i>Jute</i> in low lands	March April	4	June Aug.	15 to 20 mds
20. <i>Jute</i> in high lands	May	4	Aug. Sept.	Ditto
21. <i>Sant</i> hemp (<i>Crotalaria juncea</i>)	Oct. Nov.	30	Feb.	6 mds
22. <i>Tobacco</i>	Seedbed Aug. to Transplant Oct. Nov.	1 oz	Feb. March	10 to 12 mds
23. <i>Chilies</i>	Seedbed May. June Transplant July August	4 sr	Dec. Feb.	8 to 10
24. <i>Turneric</i>	May June	2 mds rhizomes	Ditto	50 mds
25. <i>Coriander</i> (<i>Coriandrum sativum</i>)	Oct. Nov.	6 srs	Feb. March	4
26. <i>Ginger</i>	May-June	3 mds rhizomes.	Dec. Feb.	50 "
27. <i>Onions</i> (grown from bulbs)	Oct. Nov.	1 1/2 mds bulbs	Feb. March	80
28. <i>Garlic</i>	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	80
29. <i>Detol-leaf</i> (<i>Poa</i>)	May-Nov.	2,000 cuttings	Plucking of leaves begins 3 months after planting.	40 to 80 lakhs of leaves
30. <i>Detol</i> (<i>Arroz</i>) (<i>Sorghum</i>)	Not sown in seedbed Oct. Nov. Transplanted two years after in May June.	1,000 plants	6 to 8 years after planting. Flowering season Feb.-March. Plucking season Nov. to Jan.	6 to 8 mds. of nuts.
31. <i>Sorghum</i>	Jan.-Feb.	12,000 cuttings	Dec.-March	40 to 60 mds. of gur.
32. <i>Sorghum</i>	Jan.-March	1 to 2 acres	April-July	About Rs. 80

Rice.

Aman

Rice is the staple crop of the district and furnishes the greater part of its food supply. The main crop consists of *aman* or winter rice, which is generally sown broadcast on the low lands. Transplantation is confined to lands of higher elevation and is reported to be an innovation of recent date. The long stemmed variety, which is known locally as *baran*, is grown in places where water accumulates in the rains to a depth of 3 to 15 feet. It has the property of keeping pace in its growth with the rise of the water but the rise must be gradual; a sudden high rise may drown the plants or wash them away. As a rule, the lower the situation of the rice land, the coarser is the grain and the heavier the outturn. The finer varieties are confined to the Sadar subdivision.

Aus

Aus rice, which requires land of a higher elevation, is mainly grown in the Sadar subdivision and is mostly of a coarse description. The plants grow to a height of about 3 or 3½ feet and land has consequently to be selected on which the depth of water at the beginning of the rains does not exceed two feet. *Aus* is sometimes grown in *char* lands mixed up with *aman*: in such cases it is sown early, so that it may be harvested before the rivers rise; when it is reaped, the *aman* is left standing in the fields.

Boro

Boro rice, which is a spring or summer crop, is grown on the sides of *bils* and streams and also to some extent in the *chars*; it is sown in nurseries and transplanted to the soft mud left behind when the floods recede. It bears a coarse grain, but the outturn is large and the cost of cultivation is reduced by the fact that ploughing is not required for the fields.

Kaon

Kaon (*Panicum Italicum*) occupies a place second to *aus* paddy among the *kharif* crops. It is grown at the same time as *aus* and on lands having a similar situation.

Jute.

Next to rice, jute is the crop of greatest economic importance in Pabna, for while the cultivator depends on the rice harvest for food, he looks to the sale-proceeds of his jute to pay his rent and buy his little comforts. The extensive cultivation of jute in the district is only about half a century old. Until 1865 the fibre was only grown on a very small scale for local use, and little or none was exported. The position was changed with the growing demand for the fibre in Europe, and cultivation expanded rapidly till in 1872 there were 123,000 acres under the crop. Since then the area under cultivation has fluctuated according to the demand and the rate of prices, but the normal cropped area is now 125,000 acres and the crop of 1890 had an outturn of 225,000 bales of 400 lbs. each.

The Sirājganj subdivision is famous for its jute, one variety of which is known in the commercial market as Sirājganj jute. The species grown here is *Corchorus capsularis*, the plant of which is suitable for low land as it is able to withstand water-logging; finer varieties are however grown at a slightly higher elevation. The jute mostly grown in the Sadar subdivision is of a different kind, viz., *Corchorus olitorius*, locally known as *tosha*, which cannot stand submersion. There is also a difference in the times of sowing. In the Sirājganj subdivision, as well as in the low lands of the Sadar subdivision, the crop is sown early to prevent its being swamped by floods, while *tosha* is sown on the higher lands of the latter subdivision not earlier than May. Mustard is the *rabi* crop which most commonly follows jute, as other *rabi* crops interfere with the early preparation of the soil for jute. In the Sirājganj subdivision however, where the land is green manured in the winter season with sun hemp, *rabi* crops are not grown. As already mentioned, the practice of green manuring the jute land in this way is peculiar to this subdivision and to Mymensingh.

The crop in the low lands is ready for cutting by the beginning of July and in the higher lands a month later. The crop is cut in three stages, viz., when the plants are in flower, when they are just setting and when the fruit is well developed. It takes the plants about four weeks to pass the three stages; cutting in the last stage gives a heavier yield and ensures a good quality of fibre. The plants are cut close to the ground unless the water is deep, in which case they are pulled up. After this they are tied in bundles and left in the water to rot. On high lands, however, the bundles are stacked on the fields for two or three days before being taken to the nearest water to steep, the bundles being covered with the tops of the plants or with weeds to protect them from the rays of the sun, which would impair the quality of the fibre. The bundles are placed one above the other in the water, the topmost layer being covered with weeds. Some cultivators put bamboo posts on either side of the heaps with another bamboo tied across them to keep the heaps of bundles submerged.

The process of retting takes 15 to 20 days. Deep stagnant water is preferred to shallow running water for the purpose. The disadvantage of shallow water is that the lowest bundles touch the ground, and this affects the colour of the fibre. Steeping in running water also takes a longer time and the outer bundles of the heap are not ready for the extraction of fibre when the inner bundles are, with the result that the fibre is not

uniform in quality. If however there is no alternative, the heaps are broken up and the outside bundles are kept steeping for a few days longer.

There are two methods of extracting the fibre. One is to take the bundles, when retting is complete, to the home of the cultivator and strip off the fibre from each plant separately. The strippers are generally the womenfolk of the cultivator's family. Each stripper holds the lower portion of the stem in one hand, and deftly pulls off the fibre with the other; a skilled stripper can extract fibre from three or four plants at a time. Half a maund of dry fibre can ordinarily be extracted by one stripper. When a sufficient quantity has been extracted, it is taken to the water and washed properly. This method of extraction gives a better outturn as nothing is lost through entanglement and the fibre being free from tangles commands a higher price.

If the other method is followed, the cultivator stands in the water by the heap of jute, takes out a handful of the stems at a time, beats on the bottom of the stems with a flat wooden mallet and afterwards breaks the handful of stems at a distance of a cubit from the bottom; he then shakes out the loosened stems from the broken portion and taking hold of the separated fibre with both hands, gives a few jerks backward and forward to the unextracted stems; about half a dozen jerks clear the fibre off the stems. The fibre is then washed and rinsed and made into a twist and thrown out on the dry land or a boat near by. After washing, the fibre is dried in the sun over bamboo poles for two or three days and is made into bundles.

It is very seldom that a cultivator personally brings his produce for sale in the market or *hāt*. Itinerant traders called *phāriās* go about from house-to-house buying up jute from the growers. The *phāriās* sell their purchases to *bepāriās* or traders, who in their turn dispose it to the *mahājāns* (generally Marwaris), who store the jute in their godowns. Thence it either finds its way to the Calcutta market, mills or press-houses in drums and kutchas bales or goes to the local balers. A drum weighs 40 seers without any assortment; kutchas bales are generally made to a weight of $3\frac{1}{2}$ maunds each, assorted and pressed at the *mahājāns'* godowns. These kutchas bales are divided into the following qualities:—1's containing 80 per cent. to 90 per cent. of hessian warp; 2's containing 40 per cent. of hessian warp; 3's containing 60 per cent. of sacking warp; 4's containing 20 per cent. of sacking warp; and "rejections," which are all waste. The

standard quality of loose jute market is called 50—50, that is 50 per cent. of the bales contain 2's and 50 per cent. 3's. The price of this quality determines the prices of other qualities according to the demand of the market. The balers make the jute into bales of 5 maunds each by means of presses. The standard quality of baled jute is what is known in the market as "M" group or "cracks". They are made up in equal proportions of Nos. 2's and 3's packed separately. This "M" group forms the basis of transactions with foreign countries. It should be added that the European firms have their own godowns at Sirājganj and obtain their requirements through their own buying agencies at country marts.

There is another system of buying jute by which the cultivators, receive advances from the *mahājans* through their *bepāris* at the time of sowing. A rate is fixed, generally much below the market rate, at which the cultivator agrees to sell all his produce to the *mahājan* and also agrees to pay him one to two seers of jute for each rupee advanced. The cultivator thus gets tied hand and foot and if the crop fails or is short, he is faced with ruin.

The cost of the cultivation of jute in the district including the extraction of fibre ordinarily amounts to Rs. 80 and the average outturn to 16 maunds per acre.

The *rabi* crops of the district consist of mustard, *kalai* and *mug* (*Phaseolus radiatus* and *P. Mungo*), *khesāri* (*Lathyrus sativus*), the lentil known as *musuri*, *rahar* (*Cajanus indicus*), peas, wheat, barley and linseed. *Rabi crops*

Mustard, which, as already stated, is generally grown after jute, is more extensively cultivated than any other *rabi* crop. *Kawai*, *mug* and peas are grown on *char* lands, where they are sown broadcast in October when the water subsides.

Khesāri, which yields a cheap pulse, is frequently grown for fodder, especially if there is a scarcity of grass owing to the failure of rain in the early part of the year.

Another crop of importance is *til* or gingelly, which is raised on newly formed *chars* where no other crop can be profitably grown. *Gingelly.*

Tobacco is a crop of minor importance. It is not a field crop, but is only raised on small plots of homestead land, the leaf being used for home consumption only. *Tobacco.*

The cultivation of sugarcane in the Sirājganj subdivision is precluded by the low level of the country. Elsewhere cultivators are frequently prevented from growing it by the *Sugarcane.*

ravages of wild pigs. It is however grown on the banks of the Ichhāmāti in the Sadar subdivision and in the areas adjoining the Rājshāhi district. There are three local varieties, of which that known as *dhali*, is the best. This is a soft cane, whereas the other two have hard thin stems.

Date-palm
sugar.

Pābna gets part of her supply of molasses (*gur*) from the juice of the date-palm, which is not regularly cultivated as in Jessore and Khulna, but grows spontaneously in large quantities, especially in the west of the Sadar subdivision. Tapping begins in October and lasts till March. The lower leaves of the terminal tuft of foliage are cut off on one side of the tree and the exposed surface is shaved. A cut is made in the shape of a shallow V about half an inch deep, at the end of which a small slip of bamboo is inserted. The sap or juice, which exudes, flows into this bamboo tube, which acts as a spout to carry the juice into a pot. The tapping continues for three days at a time, the cut being deepened each day, after which the tree has three days' rest; there are altogether 60 tapplings in the season. The juice collected on the first day is called *jirān ras*. On the second day *dokāt* and on the third day *jharna*. The juice is boiled and made into cakes of *gur* or *patali*, each about half a seer in weight, which sell at the rate of two to five annas a seer. A tree yields on the average 5 seers of juice a day, or 300 seers in the season, and 10 seers of juice produce one seer of *gur*, so that the outturn of a tree in the season comes to 30 seers of *gur*.

Spices.

Turmeric is by far the most extensively cultivated of the spices. Next in importance is coriander seed. Chillies, ginger, areca nut and *pān* are also grown.

Turmeric is grown in the shade in mango groves, as well as in the open. The bulbs are planted in rows in the month of May; care has to be taken to prevent any accumulation of water as water-logging is very injurious to the crop. The rhisomes are taken up from December to January when the leaves have completely withered. They are boiled in water mixed with cowdung and are then spread out in the sun to dry. Drying takes three or four days, and every evening the rhisomes are rubbed with the hand to make them clean and smooth. The outturn is about 80 maunds of raw turmeric, or 20 maunds of dried turmeric per acre, and the cost of cultivation averages about Rs. 50 per acre.

FRUITS AND
VEGETABLES.

The Sadar subdivision abounds in the ordinary fruits of the plains. Mangoes, jack fruit and plantains are plentiful; other

common fruits are the litchi, lemon, papaya, cocoanut, melons and the Indian blackberry or *jāmun* (*Eugenia Jambolana*). Country vegetables are grown in abundance, the surplus left after local consumption, being exported to the Calcutta market. The cultivation of potatoes has recently been started owing to the activities of the Agricultural Department, but other English vegetables, such as cabbages and cauliflowers, are not grown locally. The following statement gives details of the principal vegetables raised in Pābna :—

Name.	Sowing time.	Time when ready.
1. Brinjal (<i>Batigna</i>)	Seed bed —May-June Transplanted July-August.	October-March.
2. <i>Patol</i> (<i>Trichosanthes dioica</i>)	September-October	March-September.
3. Radish	August-November	September-February.
4. Sweet potato (<i>Sakarband</i>)	September-October	February-March.
5. Country beans (<i>lablab</i>)	June-August	October-January.
6. <i>Kachu</i> (<i>Ocotea antiquorum</i>)	May-June	August-September.
7. Bottle gourd (<i>Lau</i>)	(1) January-February (2) July-August	March-May. October-January.
8. Gourd (<i>Bilati Kumra</i> or <i>Maha Kumra</i>)	(1) March-April (2) July-August	June-July October-January.
9. Pumpkin	April-May	July-October.
10. <i>Jhinga</i> (<i>Luffa acutangula</i>)	(1) March-April (2) May-July	July-September. August-November.
11. <i>Dhondul</i> (<i>Luffa Egyptiaca</i>)	April-June	July-September.
12. Bitter gourd (<i>Karala</i>)	February-March	April-August.
13. Bitter gourd, small (<i>Uchchhe</i>)	December-January	March-July.
14. Lady's finger (<i>Hibiscus esculentus</i>)	May-August	August-December.
15. <i>Kamrol</i> (<i>Momordica Cochis-Chinensis</i>)	April-May	August-September.
16. Indian horse-radish (<i>Gajra</i>)	April	Pods ready by January-April in the 2nd year.
17. Snake gourd (<i>Uthchhinga</i>)	May-June	August-September.
18. Yam (<i>Khamala</i>)	April-May (raised from tuber cuttings).	December-January.
19. Okra	(1) December-January (2) June-July	May-August. September-December.
20. <i>Bastola</i> (<i>Kanch-Kala</i>)	Seeds planted June-August.	1 year after planting.
21. Potato	October-November	January-March.
22. <i>Peas</i> (various varieties such as <i>Batta</i> (<i>Osteopetrum viride</i>), <i>Natta</i> (<i>Amoranthus</i>), <i>Peas</i> (<i>Pisum sativum</i> and <i>arvense</i>) and <i>Peas</i> (<i>Pisum sativum</i>)).		

CATTLE AND
PASTURAGE.

According to a census taken in 1920 the district contains 36,442 bulls, 201,234 bullocks and 214,658 cows, besides young stock aggregating 175,180. The number of buffaloes enumerated was—male 12,363, female 2,608, and young stock 621. Pābna is said to have been famous for the abundance of its milk cattle and has still pride of place among the districts of the Rājshāhi Division for *ghī* and other dairy products. The quality and number of the cattle have been impaired by the reduction of grazing grounds owing to the spread of cultivation and the erosion caused by the rivers Jamuna and Padma, and also by lack of knowledge in the breeding and selection of cattle. The cattle depend for food on paddy straw and the grass they pick up in grazing. Grasses are also cut from the *bils* and *chars* and brought to market for sale; the chief varieties are *dūb* (*Cynodon dactylon*), *makra* (*Ebasine aegyptiaca*), *khas* (*Andropogon muricatus*) and *takri* (*Panicum sanguinale*).

RECENT
AGRICUL-
TURAL
IMPROVE-
MENTS

The following account of the agricultural improvements recently effected by the Agricultural Department has been contributed by Mr. G. Evans, C.I.E., Director of Agriculture, Bengal.

As has been explained above, the district really consists of two distinct areas, one of which (the eastern portion) closely resembles the typical low-lying Eastern Bengal country and the other more closely resembles the high-lying tract of the Presidency Division. A good deal of experimental work in the former class of land has been carried on for years past in the Dacca Division and the Agricultural Department has been able to suggest improvements. In the western area, however, the need for a small experimental farm was very soon evident, as the conditions are quite different. A district farm of about 20 acres was accordingly established on a typical piece of high land near the Sadar headquarters in 1920-21: the land was acquired by the District Board, which made it over to the department. The object was to test new varieties of the main crops against local varieties and to confirm the results of special manures under the special conditions that obtain locally. The farm is now in its second year of working and already some very good results have been obtained, of which a few examples may be mentioned briefly.

Pābna is an important sugarcane growing tract and the departmental variety known as yellow Tanna was tested

side by side with the most popular local variety (*dhali*). The Tanna cane yielded 101 maunds of *gur* per acre against 46 maunds of the local variety grown side by side under exactly equal conditions. The result has naturally been to create a very strong demand for sets of this variety, and to meet this demand a number of privately owned Tanna cane seed farms have been established. There seems little doubt that this new cane will in a very short time completely oust the local varieties, as it not only has a heavier yield, but it is harder and not so liable to damage from jackals or attacks of stem borer and is also more resistant to the fungus disease known as red rot.

With regard to jute, in the low-lying eastern area, white jute (*C. Capsularis*) is grown and here the departmental jutes known as Kakai Bombai and R85, a derivative from it, have become as firmly established as they have in the Dacca Division. These new jutes are late flowering and withstand drought in the early stages and water-logging later on, and numerous tests have proved that they yield at least one maund of fibre more to the *bigha* than local jute. The limiting factor at present is solely the supply of sufficient seed, which presents difficulties and is engaging the serious attention of the Agricultural Department in Bengal.

On the western highland part of the district the *tosha* variety (*C. Olitorius*) is grown. In this case the new jute now called Chinsurah Green, which is perhaps the most remarkable variety yet raised by the Fibre Expert, was tested against the local *tosha* on a series of plots on the farm. The average yields (of cleaned fibre) in 1921 worked out as follows per acre —Chinsurah Green 14 maunds 29 seers, and local *tosha* 11 maunds 26 seers, giving an increased production of 3 maunds 3 seers per acre for the Chinsurah Green, the fibre of which was also of much better quality. Here again the demand for seed is very great and an effort has been made to get the local zamindars to grow seed to meet it.

As regards paddies, the Economic Botanist's variety of *dman* known as *Indrasail*, when tested in 1921 on the farm against the local variety (*Mailsora*), yielded 16½ maunds against 6½ maunds, and the *aus* variety called *Kalaktāra* is also likely to do well on the highland area. A new crop in the shape of potatoes is being introduced and seed imported regularly from Darjeeling. As a result of successful demonstration, a strong demand has also sprung up for castor-cake and a ~~tax~~ for sugarcane.

It can readily be imagined that this promising state of affairs has entailed a great deal of work on the small agricultural staff, which consists of a District Agricultural Officer and five demonstrators. In order to meet the increased work, a separate agricultural officer has now been deputed to Sirājganj subdivision, and it is hoped to strengthen the staff of demonstrators. It has been recognised, however, that unofficial aid will have to come to the help of the departmental officers if the good progress which has been made is to be continued. To this end a movement has been initiated in the way of forming co-operative agricultural associations. Six of these village associations have so far been organised and have been registered under the Co-operative Societies Act. They raise their own share capital and their main object is the raising of seed of these new varieties of crops and the purchase and sale of the seed and of special manures, such as castor-cake, to their own members and also to outsiders. The progress of the associations is being carefully watched, and if they succeed they should do a great deal towards rapidly and efficiently introducing agricultural improvements in the district.

CHAPTER VII.

INDUSTRIES, LABOUR AND TRADE.

THE pressing of jute into bales is an important industry in Pābna, there being thirty concerns engaged in the business. FACTORY INDUSTRIES
Jute presses Altogether the number of men employed is 2,100, the average labour force in the different concerns varying from 10 to 375. The principal jute presses are those of David & Co., at Sirājganj, of Landale & Clark, Ltd., at Bera and of Mānikchand Sethia at Sirājganj. The presses at Sirājganj work for the most part with imported labour and those at Bera with local labour. The strength of the labour force varies largely according to the season, rising to 500, for instance, in the largest concern during the busy season, July to December, and falling to below 100 during the slack season, January to June.

The manufacture of hosiery is an industry of recent growth, Hosiery which has with good prospects before it. There are two hosiery factories at Pābna, one known as the Pābna Hosiery Co. and the other as the Pābna Shilpa Sanjibani Co., Ltd. The Pābna Hosiery Co. is a private concern owned by the Tāntibānd zamīndārs. The Pābna Shilpa Sanjibani Co. is a limited liability company with a registered capital of 2 lakhs. Rs. 75,000 has been paid up in 750 shares of Rs. 100 each. A third hosiery factory, known as the Banga Bijay Factory, was started at Sirājganj in 1920 by a private firm owned by Babus Sashi Bhushan Sarkār and Kanai Bihārī Sarkār of the Bogra district.

The largest and most important concern is that of the Pābna Shilpa Sanjibani Co., which was started in 1905 and has been very successful, paying dividends of 15 per cent. in 1918, of 35 per cent. in 1919 and of 25 per cent. in 1920. Its annual outturn is reported to be 7,000 dozen vests (baniana), 300 dozen socks and 100 dozen sweaters. The factory exports its products to most places in Bengal and at present is unable to cope with the demand. The total number of men employed is about 70 and almost all the machines are driven by steam power. The outturn of the Pābna Hosiery Co. is about 10 dozen vests a day; it employs about 20 men and almost all the machines are driven by oil engines.

Other
factories.

There are two ice-making factories in the district, one at Sirājganj employing about 10 men and the other at Sāra, employing about 75 men. They work from April to November, and the ice is mostly used for preserving fish sent to Calcutta. There are two printing presses at Pābna and the third at Sirājganj, which meet local demands. There are also two machines for the manufacture of aerated water—one at Pābna and one at Sirājganj. The aerated water manufactured locally is, however, not in much demand, people getting soda water made at Nārāyanganj, Goalundo and Calcutta.

VILLAGE
INDUSTRIES
Cloth-
weaving

The weaving of cotton cloths on hand-loom is an old industry in Pābna which has survived the competition of the European and Bombay mills and is still the most important cottage industry in the district. The Pābna fabrics have a high reputation on account of their fine texture, and it is claimed that they challenge comparison with the products of Dacca and other historic seats of the weaving industry.

It is estimated that there are 9,500 looms in the district, of which 3,000 are fly-shuttle looms, and that the outturn of cloth is 7,500,000 yards a year. Six weavers' co-operative societies, with nearly 100 members, have been formed. The Director of Industries reports that the principal centres of the industry, with the number of looms working in each, are as follows :—

Village	No. of looms	Village	No. of looms
Delua ...	1,700	Sadullapur ...	300
Dhuparia ...	600	Enayatpur ...	255
Randhumbāri ...	500	Rāghabpur ...	250
Tamai ...	500	Bagdi ...	220
Sohāgpur ...	500	Ekdanta ...	200
Puchlia ...	400	Chalua ...	200
Sibpur ...	360	Bejgāthi ...	200
Ruknai ...	300	Amīnpur ...	150

Other weaving villages are :—

SIRAJGANJ SUBDIVISION.

- (i) Ajugarha, Gopālpur, Mānikpur and Sachhupur in Belkuchi police-station.
- (ii) Chotadhul, and Basantapur in Chauhanli police-station.

SADAR SUBDIVISION.

- (i) Mānikdia in Sujānagar police-station.
- (ii) Gopālpur in Atgharia.

- (iii) Masundia in Bera.
- (iv) Chithalia, Nishchintapur and Sibrāmpur in Pābna.
- (v) Daripāra, Mulgrām, Haripur, Singail, Pailanpur, Briguakhora, Jagannāthpur, Bathor and Baludiar in Chātinohar.

Fine cloths are made at Sadullapur, Nishchintapur and Amfnpur in the Sadar subdivision and at Delua, Gāchhapur and Chotadhul in the Sirājganj subdivision. The *chhadars* and cloth made at Delua are of a specially fine quality and in good demand among the upper classes. The industry is confined to Muhemmadar Jolahas and a few Hindu Tāntis near Pābna. The thread or yarn is mainly English. Japanese yarn is used to a small extent. It is obtained from Calcutta through middlemen, from whom the weavers purchase it on credit paying a high interest. The centres of the trade in local cloths are --

- (a) Delmar Hāt (Belkuchi), Sohāggpur, Shāhzādpur, Koirjuri, Ajugaza in the Sirājganj subdivision, and
- (b) Mathura, Ekdanta, Sujānagar, Bangrām, Dhulauri, Kāsmāthpur, Sugail, Pailanpur, Bhānguria and Demra in the Sadar subdivision.

Dyeing of yarn in red and blue colours is carried on to a small extent and there is a small dye-house at Dogāchi near Pābna. Indigo dye is mostly used.

Baskets (*dhamaas*) are made extensively in the district by a class known as Betua Muchis and are exported mainly to Rājshāhi and Calcutta. They are round in shape and made of local cane. They are of various sizes to hold 4 to 20 kacha seers of grain and are sold at annas 4 to annas 12 each according to quality and size. Basket-making

Blankets are made at Sāra by some families who migrated there from Bihar. The blankets are rough but of good quality. The shepherds rear sheep and weave the blankets from their wool. Blanket-making

Bricks and tiles are manufactured in the indigenous kilns (*pājas*) and also in Bull's patent kilns. In the former local labour is employed; for the latter moulders and *mistris* are imported from Bihar. Brick and tile-making.

The ordinary earthen pots of daily use are made by local potters, but they are of inferior quality and brittle and do not last long. They are unable to make big jars (*jālas* and *kolās*) and tubs (*charis*). These are made by potters who come from Nadia in the dry season and also make rings for wells. Earthen toys are made at Nauhatta and Santhiantoli. Pottery

Hide-curing
and shoe-
making.

Hides are cured by local butchers and Muchis (known as Rishis), who work for Muhammadan hide dealers on a system of advances. Hide-dealers come from Dacca, settle down near some railway station, purchase raw hides and get them cured by Muchis or Musalmān hide curers from Dacca, who are called Khālīfas or Kārigārs.

Shoe-making is practically a monopoly of Chamārs from upcountry (Chapra, Arrah, Ghāzipur, Ballia, Gorakhpur and Unao), some of whom have settled in the towns and larger bazars while others remain for part of the year. They sell to order and also go to the different bazars, where they sell direct to the villagers.

Pearl-
fishing.

A minute industry, of interest on account of its rarity, is that of pearl-fishing, which is carried on from the middle of February. The pearls are obtained from fresh water shells in the *bils* of thānas Chātmohar, Ullāpāra and Shāhẓādpur: they are of small size and are sold for about Rs. 60 each to purchasers from Calcutta and Bogra. Those who engage in the industry are Bāgdis and other low castes of Dahakula, Bhattakāg and Santala (Ullāpāra), Gopālnagar and Idilpur (Chātmohar) and Parkola (Shāhẓādpur).

Rope, string
and bag-
making

Rope and string are made for boating purposes by Jalia Kaibarttas along the banks of the Padma and Jamuna from jute and hemp (of a poor quality) and also from cocoanut coir. Ropes of a special kind for towing boats, which are called *gun*, are made from hemp or flax of a good quality. The thick two-ply string, called *taita*, which is used for thatching and repairing roofs, is also a common cottage industry among the poorer Muhammadans of the labouring classes. Single-ply twine is made from hemp by poor Kapāli women who supply a twine factory at Sirājganj, where it is made into three-ply twine. This factory, which is a small concern employing 4 to 6 persons, supplies the orders of the Comptroller of Stamps and Stationery. The outturn varies from 125 to 200 maunds; in 1920 it was 125 maunds, besides 1,000 balls of twine balls of 4 oz. each. Kapāli women also make bags or sacks from jute string and one of their specialities is the money bags commonly used by Indian tradesmen.

Oil-pressing.

The extraction of oil from mustard seed is an industry confined to the Muhammadan Kalas and a few Hindu Tolia, who use the indigenous oil press called *ghani*. The oil-cake is generally used for feeding cattle and supplies the local demand only.

There is a smithy in almost every *hāl* and bazar, the black-smiths being mostly engaged in making the agricultural and other implements in common use, such as sickles, *koddīs*, plough-shares, *ddos* and axes; the more skilled make carpenters' tools, knives, razors and scissors. The betelnut cutters and *ddos* of Sutanāra in the Kāzipur police-station have a special reputation. Ironwork.

The cultivation and manufacture of indigo were carried on extensively throughout the district until 1860, and in some parts of the district it was hardly possible to travel four or five miles in any direction without passing an indigo factory. The revenue survey map (1851-52) shows 80 indigo factories and Indigo.

- 1 Atasubha
- 2 Badai
- 3 Dashurā Munshadpur
- 4 Dobrakol
- 5 Dulaori
- 6 Komidpur
- 7 Kunabāri
- 8 Kundaria
- 9 Mājhapāra
- 10 Nāzīrganj
- 11 Ratanpur
- 12 Sirājganj
- 13 Yakubpur

outworks, all situated near rivers or channels, but there were none in the north-west of the district. In 1860 there were 13 in existence as shown in the margin. The factories have long since ceased to work. The persistent opposition of the cultivators and labourers of the district rendered it impossible to carry on the industry and the factory owners were compelled to wind up their concerns. Many of the buildings have fallen into complete ruin.

Agricultural labour is generally local and the labourers consist mainly of Muhammadans. Hired labour is employed chiefly for weeding and harvesting. It is used only to a small extent for ploughing owing to the prevalence of the practice of exchanging labour, which is much in vogue among smaller cultivators. A man, for instance, who has cattle but does not wish to plough himself lends his cattle to another man for one day, and the latter in return ploughs his land for three days. Again, those who have insufficient land of their own work temporarily for cultivators with large holdings. A very few labourers are farm hands drawing yearly wages of Rs. 60 to Rs. 84 with food and clothing, *i.e.*, two pairs of *dhutīs* and a pair of *gāmchas*. Labour is almost universally hired and the rate of wages varies with the season and the demand. The minimum is three to four annas a day with food; the rate is as high as eight annas to one rupee for weeding and harvesting. Wages are also paid in kind; a common rate of remuneration is one-fifth of the crop reaped, threshed and winnowed; in the riparian villages, the payment for reaping paddy is often only one-tenth of the crop. LABOUR.

In the villages on the banks of the Jamuna river one-fifth to one-tenth of the hired labour is imported from the

Dacca district. This appears chiefly to be due to cultivators who have lost their lands and have been driven across the river by heavy diluvion coming back to work near their old homes. Another exception to the general rule is a group of villages on the border of thānas Pābna and Sujānagar, where one-tenth of the hired labour is imported from the Kushtia subdivision of Nadia. These two blocks which import labour also, however, send labourers to other districts, chiefly to Mymensingh and Bogra, and to a lesser extent to Farīdpur and Bakarganj. On the borders of Rājshāhi landless labourers and cultivators with small holdings migrate to the Nātor subdivision during the harvesting season. In the south-west of the district towards Sāra and Ishurdi a certain proportion of the labourers consist of men who have come from the Nadia district and settled there. Along the river Jamuna also, near Bera Nakāha, there are a number of landless labourers, originally cultivators, whose land has been swept away by erosion. Being now dependent on manual labour they are employed in the jute presses and are also ready to do earthwork. The labourers in the vicinity of Sirājganj are more independent and consider it an indignity to engage in earthwork. There is no such prejudice in the Sadar subdivision, where local labour is usually employed for digging tanks and for the construction and repairs of roads. About 1,000 men in the neighbourhood of Sirājganj migrate annually and work in the jute mills near Calcutta for four to six months. A certain proportion of needy agriculturists also go across the river to Assam for cutting paddy and thatching grass.

Foreign labour comes from neighbouring districts for agricultural work, *e.g.*, Muhammadan labourers come from Nadia to the south of the district for weeding and reaping, and from outside the province for other works involving hard labour and physical strength, such as earthwork and baling jute. Labourers from Bihar and the United Provinces are imported for all large construction works, for which local labour is inadequate, and are also employed in the jute presses at Sirājganj. There they are the only men able to carry drums of jute on their heads: the Bengali, who is accustomed to carry weights on his neck and shoulders, is incapable of doing so.

TRADE.

Geographically the district is favourably situated for trade, as picturesquely explained by Sir William Hunter in 1876:—

“Lying at the point of the angle formed by the convergence of the Ganges and Brahmaputra, it commands the two river highways of Eastern India. Its marts, often of mushroom

growth, have become centres for collecting and re-distributing the exports of rich provinces; and the Sirājganj merchants transact, on an arid sandbank, half the jute trade of Bengal."

The jute trade is no longer concentrated in Sirājganj to this extent and has become widely disseminated, but the town is still one of the most important centres of the trade. Several jute firms have agencies there, quantities of loose jute are brought from Rangpur, Mymensingh and Bogra, as well as from the district, and the raw material is baled in the local presses for export *via* Calcutta. The other chief centres of trade are Pābna, Bera, Dhapari on the Padma, Pangāsi on the Ichhāmāti and Ullāpāra on the Hurāsāgar. These places focus the agricultural produce of Pābna for export to Calcutta and elsewhere, and they distribute the imports of salt, piece-goods, kerosine oil and manufactured articles.

Sirājganj is, next to Nārāyanganj in the Dacca district, the most important district market for jute in Bengal. The following account of its trade is given in N. C. Chaudhury's *Jute in Bengal* (Calcutta, 1921):—

Trade in
jute

"In the beginning of the season (*i.e.*, July), local jute called Deswāl is imported here. It is a medium fibre, neither very fine nor thick, of both white and blackish colours and but little rooty. As the season advances, jute from the other side of the river Jamuna—Pāmbāri, Sarishabāri, Porabāri, etc.—comes in. This quality of jute, which is different from the local lowland jute, is very good in colour, strength and fine texture, yielding 50 to 70 per cent. hessian. Afterwards, jute from Bogra and the southern part of Rangpur is imported. From October, Deswāl and Mymensingh qualities are getting rare, while the market is mainly supplied with the jute of the parts of Northern Bengal, Assam and Cooch Behar carried by boats.

"The northern jute is generally of very good quality, although without any particular colour. It is soft and bears more twist. The jute grown by the river Teesta (a tributary to the Brahmaputra) is strong and fine. A limited quantity of *C. olitorius* called Tosha jute is also available at Sirājganj. For convenience of communications, jute is sold at Sirājganj throughout the year. In importance as a jute market, Sirājganj occupies the second position next to Nārāyanganj."

Jute is exported mainly from Sirājganj, Ullāpāra, Bhāngura, Ishurdi, Sāra, Nāzirganj, Sātbaria, Sāgarkandi, Nakālia and Bera to Calcutta. Cereals, *e.g.*, gram, peas, *khasāri*, etc., as well as mustard, are exported to Bogra and Mymensingh mainly from Ullāpāra, Sirājganj, Ishurdi, Sāra, Sātbaria, Nakālia and Bera.

Centres of
export.

Tamarind fruit is exported to a certain extent to Calcutta, Mymensingh and Dacca, Jamtail being the principal exporting centre. Middlemen are said to make large profits over this business buying at 12 annas per maund and selling at Rs. 3 per maund. Ghee is exported mainly to Calcutta from Khāmārullāpāra (Belkuchi police-station), Balloṇpāra (Ullāpāra p.-s.) Shāhzādpur, Potājia, Pānjanī, Jāpurīa (Shāhzādpur p.-s.), Bhāngura (Faridpur p.-s.), Chātmohar, Ishurdi (Sāra p.-s.) and Bharenga (Bera p.-s.) Fowls and ducks and their eggs are exported to Calcutta from almost every station on the Sāra-Sirājganj Railway. The trade is especially brisk at Salap, where 3 or 4 big boxes of eggs are despatched daily. Eggs are collected by middlemen from door-to-door and at the *hāls* at 3 to 5 annas a dozen, and fetch double in Calcutta. Owing to this trade it is difficult to procure fowls and eggs in places near the railway stations. Fowls are also exported to Calcutta from Sujānagar *viā* Pāngsa railway station. Fish caught in the *bils* in Kāzipur, Faridpur, Tārān and Chātmohar police-stations are exported to Calcutta from Sirājganj and from Bhāngura and Saratnagar railway stations. Those caught in the Jamuna are exported to Calcutta from Sthāl by steamer. *Hilsa* fish caught in the Padma are exported by railway from Sāra and from Sāgarkāndī and Nāzirganj *viā* Belgāchi railway station. Dried fish is exported from Ladaī (Sujānagar police-station) to Calcutta.

Goats and sheep are brought to *hāls*, especially at Ratan-kāndī, in quantities of a few hundred by *beṇḍāris* and in lesser quantities of thirties and forties to *hāls* in Chauhālī police-station and sent off to Calcutta. Chauhālī, Tālgāch (Shāhzādpur p.-s.) and Arankhola do a considerable trade during the cold weather in cattle, which are mainly exported to Dacca and Mymensingh. Bones are collected all over the district by Muchis and butchers, mostly in Kāzipur p.-s. and Sāra p.-s., and exported to Messrs. Ralli Brothers at Calcutta. Hides are also collected by the same class, and exported to Calcutta through middlemen from Kālia Khāndapāra (Sirājganj), Shāhzādpur, Char Kawk (Ullāpāra p.-s.), Dāshsiki (Kāmārkhānda p.-s.), Bhānguria (Faridpur p.-s.), Ishurdi, Chandia, Ekdanta, Nārāyn Sibpur and Debottar (Atgharia p.-s.), Sātbaria (Sujānagar) and Aralia (Bera p.-s.).

Twine is exported to Calcutta from Sirājganj; onions from Jorṇkhuria (Sujānagar p.-s.) to Bhairab, turmeric from Chinakhora and Daskhin Birāmpur (Sujānagar p.-s.) to Dacca and Mymensingh, and molasses from Ahmadpur and Sujānagar to Dacca and Mymensingh. Cane baskets are exported from

Chandra, Ekdanta, Atgharia, Debottar (Atgharia p.-s.) and Pābna to Calcutta and Rājshāhi. The vegetables known as *patol* are sent from Pābna to Dacca and Mymensingh, and earthen pots (*suiāhi*) are despatched by rail from Ishurdi to Calcutta and other places on the line, e.g., Nātor, Sāntahār and Dinājpur.

The export trade is in the hands of middlemen, of whom there are three classes. The man who deals directly with the producer (or in the case of fish with the fishermen) is the *phāria*, a man of small capital who goes about from place-to-place collecting the articles for which there is a demand. These the *phārias* sell to the middlemen next in the order of gradation, viz., the *bepāris* who are established at the principal markets. The *bepāris* sell again to merchants according to the state of the market, e.g., they may store the goods if prices are low and wait for a rise. Needless to say, the middlemen make large profits and the price received by the producer may be only half that paid by the consumer; thus, the cultivator may get Rs. 5 a maund for jute which fetches Rs. 10 in the market. Trade in articles of constant demand is generally run on a system of advances (*dādan*); the *bepāris* make advances to the *phārias*, who are bound in return to sell the commodities they collect only to the *bepāris* and often have their margin of profit limited. Calcutta merchants again finance collecting agents in a similar way.

It is reported that there are altogether 80 permanent market places with a daily bazar for the sale of local produce, 215 *hāts* or temporary markets, which are usually held twice a week, and 58 periodical *melās* or fairs.

The following is a list of bazars and trade centres (indicating briefly the principal articles of trade) in each thāna of the district :—

SADAR SUBDIVISION

List of bazars.	Trade centres.	Articles of trade.
<i>Pābna police-station—</i>		
Pābna	... Pābna Bazar	... Paddy, rice, fish, vegetables and other necessaries of life.
Dogāchi	...	...
Bhaurāra	...	...
Sādar	...	...
Edanta	...	...
Malanchi	...	...

List of bazars.	Trade centres.	Articles of trade.
<i>Faridpur</i> <i>police-station—</i>		
Faridpur ...	Pābna Bazar	... Paddy, rice, fish, vegetables and other necessities of life.
Gopālnagar ...	.....	.....
<i>Sujanagar</i> <i>police station—</i>		
Sujānagar ...	Sujanagar	... Jute, paddy, rice, fish, etc., mainly
Sātbāria ...	Sātbāria	... ..
Nāzirganj ...	... .	.....
Dulai ...	... ..	.....
<i>Mathura</i> <i>police station—</i>		
Bera ...	Bera	... Jute, paddy, molasses, wood, etc.
<i>Chātmohar</i> <i>police station—</i>		
Chātmohar ...	Chātmohar	... Jute, paddy, rice.
Bhāngura ..	... ..	.....
<i>Sāra police-station—</i>		
Sāra Rāja Bazar ...	Sāra	.. Fish, vegetables, paddy, rice.
Kāmārpur Ganga Bazar. ....	.....	id.
Pāksi Bazar ...	Pāksi	... id.
<i>Sāinthia police-station—</i>		
Sāinthia ...	Sāinthia (Dulai)	... Fish, vegetables, paddy, rice.
Baugrām ...	.....	.....

List of bazars	Trade centres.	Articles of trade
----------------	----------------	-------------------

SIRAJGANJ SUBDIVISION

Sirājganj police-station—

Kolbandar	...	Kolbandar	...	Jute, rice, paddy, kerosine, salt and other food grains.
Kālbāri (Sirājganj)	...	Sālkol Hāt	...	Jute, paddy, rice
Monohāripatti	...	Kālia Kāndhāpāra	...	Cattle market
Saidābād	...	.....	.....	.....
Sātiāntoli	...	Bayrābhāt	...	Cattle and jute
Gārodaha	...	Bāgbāri Hāt	...	Cattle, jute, paddy, rice.
Songācha	...	.....	.....	.....
Bāgbāri	...	.....	.....	.....

Tārās police-station—

Tārās	...	Tārās	...	Paddy, rice, fish.
-------	-----	-------	-----	--------------------

Belkuchi police station—

Delua	...	Delua Bazar	...	Jute, paddy, rice and other necessaries of life
Makimpur	...	..	..	..
Balarāmpur	...	.....	.....	..
Khāmar Ullāpāra	...	..	..	.....
Kāndhāpāra	...	.....	.....	..
Kalyānpur	...	..	..	.....

Chauhāli police station—

Chauhāli	...	Chauhāli	...	Jute, paddy, cattle, fish and other necessaries.
Kāndhāpāra	...	.....	.....	.....
Betail	...	.....	.....	.....
Chāndpur	...	.....	.....	.....
Ullāpāra	...	.....	.....	.....

Kāmārkhānda police-station—

Jhansīl	...	Kāmārkhānda	...	Jute, paddy, rice, fish.
Udhadrāghāt	...	Porābāri	...	..
.....	...	Damhika	...	.....

List of bazars.	Trade centres.	Articles of trade.
<i>Ullāpāra police-station—</i>		
Ullāpāra	Ullāpāra	Jute, hemp.
.....	Kāliganj	.....
.....	Barohar	.....
<i>Rāiganj police-station—</i>		
Chandaikona	Chandaikona	Paddy, rice, jute mainly.
Dhāngara	Dhāngara	.....
Rāiganj	Nalka	.....
Bhaiaṅānti	Shalanga	.....
Ghurka	.....	.....
Deobhāg	.....	.....
Nimṅāchi	.....	.....
Dhāmāinagar	.....	.....
Dhubil	.....	.....
Shalanga	.....	.....
Sāhebganj	.....	.....
Nalka	.....	.....
Grām Pāngāsi	.....	.....
Hāt Pāngāsi	.....	.....
Hāshil	.....	.....
Karilābāri	.....	.....
Brahmāgācha	.....	.....
Sātāni	.....	.....
Atgharia	.....	.....
<i>Shāhzādpur police-station.</i>		
Shāhzādpur	Shāhzādpur	.....
Jāmirta	Jāmirta	} Paddy, rice and jute.
Porjana	Porjana	
Beltail	Beltail	
Potājia	Potājia	
Souātani	.....	.....
Gārādaha	.....	.....
Nārina	.....	.....

Haw.

A large amount of trade is also carried on at village *hāts* or markets, which are held on fixed days, once or twice or

thrice a week. The *hāt* is usually held in an open space, where vendors from the neighbouring villages and petty traders from a distance sell their goods. They either sit on the ground with their wares set out before them, or occupy open sheds or booths with corrugated iron or thatched roofs. Business is transacted in all kinds of country produce, *e.g.*, rice, vegetables, spices, betel, tobacco, fruit, fish and earthenware. The villager disposes of his surplus produce and obtains what he needs himself. The more important *hāts* are also frequented by the brokers of merchants dealing in country produce. These markets belong to the zamīndārs, who charge the vendors fees for the right to sell their goods.

No large trade is carried on at the *melās* or fairs and there is no special feature in the business done, except that various kinds of wooden articles are sold at the *melās* held at Sonāmukhi in the Kāzipur police-station of the Sirājganj subdivision and at Shāhzādpur and Arankhola, where ponies and cattle are sold. Otherwise the ordinary commodities of daily use which are sold in *hāts* and bazars change hands, *e.g.*, sweetmeats, spices, pots and other utensils, fruits, trinkets, etc. The following is a brief account of the chief *melās* :—

A *melā* is held at Chandra in Atgharia police-station on the occasion of Kārtik Puja and lasts for about a month. Some 500 to 600 persons from villages in the vicinity attend it and shopkeepers come from Pābna and neighbouring places. *Melās* are also held at Ashtamanisha and Haripur on the occasion of Kāli Puja and last for 7 to 20 days. Some 500 to 1,000 people from the neighbouring places, from Chātmohar and from Gurudāspur and Baraigrām in Rājshāhi attend daily.

Another *melā* is held in April on the occasion of Basanti Ashtami at Khānpura in connection with the worship of Bhairabpāth, whose idol is enshrined there. It lasts two days and is attended by 2,000 to 3,000 people. A *melā* is held at Sonāmukhi in Kāzipur police-station in the month of Āświn or Kārtik on the occasion of the Durga Puja and lasts for 20 days. Some 1,000 people from the neighbouring places and from villages in Bogra visit the *melā*, which is of sufficient importance to attract shopkeepers from Sirājganj and Bogra. A fair is held at Shāhzādpur in the winter season and lasts for about a month. About 1,000 people attend daily and shopkeepers come from Pābna, Sirājganj and Jāmtail. The special feature of this *melā* is the sale of ponies.

CHAPTER VIII.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

GENERAL
CONDITIONS.

THE many rivers, *bils* and marshes render it impossible to construct permanent roads except at great expense. Large areas are swampy and water-logged, the water lying in them to a considerable depth during the rains. Roads have to be raised on embankments, which are liable to be breached by floods: where they are not raised, they are often mere tracks. The up-keep of the roads is also difficult, because the borrow-pits, from which earth is taken, remain full of water till late in the year, and they can only be utilised during the comparatively short time that they are dry. There are, moreover, numerous water-courses and rivers which require large and expensive bridges. Lastly, the soil is composed of alluvium, and all road metal has to be imported. There are, however, excellent water communications—the rivers are, in fact, the main trade routes—and in recent years the district has been given connection with other districts by the branch railway connecting Sirājganj with the main line of the Eastern Bengal Railway.

RAILWAYS.

The northern section of the Eastern Bengal Railway, *i.e.*, the section from the Ganges or Padma to Siliguri, passes through the south-western corner of the district for a distance of about 5 miles. It is carried across the Ganges by the great Hardinge bridge, of which an account will be found in the last chapter. In this short length there are two railway stations, *viz.*, Paksey (Pāksi) and Ishurdi 4½ miles further on: the village of Ishurdi is situated in the Rajshahi district. Ishurdi is a junction for a branch line of the Eastern Bengal Railway opened in 1917, which is known as the Sāra-Sirājganj branch. It connects Ishurdi with Sirājganj and is 52½ miles long. On it there are the stations shown in the marginal statement, which also gives the distances between them: the spellings are those adopted by the railway. A ferry

Station.	Miles
Ishurdi ...	...
Mooladuh ...	7½
Dhanbila ...	4½
Chatmohar ...	3½
Goakhora ...	2½
Bhangoom ...	2½
Saratnagar ...	2½
Dipashar ...	3½
Lahiri-Mohanpur ...	3½
Mahishabola ...	8
Ullapara ...	2
Sajep ...	5½
Jamtol ...	4½
Kalia-Haripur ...	3½
Sirājganj ...	2½
Sirājganj Bazar ...	1½
Sirājganj Court ...	2
Sirājganj Ghat ...	1

service is maintained between Sirājganj Ghāt and Jagannāthganj, from which there is connection with Mymensingh and Dacca. A daily through passenger train in each direction has been introduced between Calcutta and Sirājganj Ghāt. A motor service also runs between Pābna and Ishurdi in connection with the railway.

Both the Ganges and Brahmaputra are navigable throughout the year by steamers and country boats of the largest size, and the Baral and the Hurasāgar by boats of 4 tons burden throughout the year; the other minor water-courses are navigable during the rainy season. The Phuljhur, which was formerly navigable throughout its course, has formed shallows at Nalka and Ullāpāra, which make it impassable for heavily laden craft. The Dhānbāndi, which passes through Sirājganj, is connected with the Simla Khāl, and ultimately with the Jamuna, by the Kāta Khāl and with the Pāngāsi river and the Phuljhur by the Telkupi Khāl; these artificial channels are, however, only navigable during the rains.

WATER
TRANSPORT.

There is a daily steamer service of the India General Navigation and Railway Company between Pabna and Paksey on the Eastern Bengal Railway, the journey taking about 3 hours up-stream and 2 hours down-stream: the steamers run twice in each direction daily.

Steamer
SERVICES.

Place	Distance in miles	The large steamers of the Ganges despatch service (Goalundo to Digha near Patna) call at the marginally-noted places; a steamer also plies between
Sātibāra		
Sengrām Ghāt		
Pābna		
Sāra		

Pābna and Kushtia, a journey of three hours.

On the Jamuna or Brahmaputra the Goalundo-Assam mail steamer stops at Sirājganj. There are also three steamer stations at Arālia to the south, at Sthal Char and at Belkuchi, at all of which a local steamer service plying from Goalundo to Bāhādurābad calls daily. There is also a purely local ferry steamer, which crosses the river between Sirājganj and Subarnakhālī. This is mainly used for the transport of cattle on their way from Bihar to Mymensingh.

There are now 34 miles of metalled roads in the district and 691 miles of unmetalled roads, besides the tracks maintained by local authorities which are known as village roads: these tracks have a total length of 253 miles. These figures

ROADS.

may be compared with those given below of the lengths of the roads in the 18th century as stated by Rennell in "*A Description of the Roads in Bengal and Bahar, 1778.*" These, it must be remembered, were the only roads in the district.

Names of places	Distances in miles and furlongs		Rivers and nullahs to be crossed	
	M	F		
Custee	127	6	(from Calcutta)	
Puthia				
Nazirpou	10	0	Ganges	
Syngpou	10	6		
Chatmol	9	4	Attri	
Hurryal	10	0	Goor	
Nowgong	3	0		
Tarwas	6	1		
Bowanypur	10	0		
Seerpour	8	2		

The headquarters town of Pābna then had connection with Calcutta by a road from "Custy" to "Seerpour in Mahmanshi," of which Rennell's details are given in the margin. The claims of this road to be considered a road according to modern standards are doubtful, for it appears to have been a mere track. Custy or Custee is easily recognizable as Kushtia in the Nadia district: Syngpyne is Sainpain Hāt on the Atrai river, 9 miles north-east of Pābna. Chatmol is Chātmohar and Hurryal is Hāndiāl. Nowgong has not been identified, but may possibly be Naughāt. Bowanypour is Bhawānipur just across the border in Bogra district and Seerpour in Mahmanshi is easily identifiable as Sherpur now in the Bogra district.

Name of places	Distances in miles and furlongs		Rivers and nullahs	
	M	F		
Jaffiergunge				
Ruttungunge	10	0	2 rivers	
Nazagunge	8	4		
Sujanagar	12	4		
Pabna	12	0	Arti	

Pābna was connected with Rājshāhi on the west by a road running to Pootya (the modern Puthia) and thence to Bauleah (Rampur-Boālia), and with Dacca on the east by a road running to Jaffiergunge as shown in the margin. Jaffiergunge is Jāfarganj. Ruttungunge is the modern village of Ratanganj in the Mathura thāna. Nazagunge is easily recognized as Nāzirganj in the Sujānagar thāna.

In the north-east of the districts some roads radiated from "Nulshi Imampour." These are the names of two villages 4 or 5 miles south-east of Sirājganj, which diluviated many years ago and reformed as *chars*, viz., Imāmpur on the right bank and Nālsia on the left bank, the steamer track lying between them. One road ran to Potul Cangmary (Kāgmāri) and Attyah

(Atia), places in the Mymensingh district. A second road was as shown in the margin. The site of Belkuchi, 11 miles south of Sirājganj, is now under the river. Cookanny is the modern Khukni in Shāhzādpur thāna :

Nulshi-Imanpour to Shazadpour.

	M.	F.
Belcuchy	6	4
Cookanny	8	6
Shazadpour	5	4

the Betil-Shāhzādpur road passes through the village. A third road connected "Nulshi" with Jāfarganj in the Dacca district : none of the places mentioned by Rennell as lying on it are in the Pābna district. A fourth went to Sherpur in Bogra, passing through Rummutgungo (Rahmātganj, 2 miles west of Sirājganj) and Pongash (Pāngāsi, 6 miles west of Sirājganj). Further

	M	F	Rivers
Attyah-Hutty- barry	10	0	Lojung & Joobnee
Bailtoil	7	1	Nullah
Shahzadpour	4	0	Canal

south there was a road from Dacca to Shāhzādpur with the marginally-noted places on it. Attyah, as already noticed, is Atia in Mymensingh. Hatty-

barry is Hātibāri, 2½ miles south of Chauhali in this district, and Bailtoil is Beltoul near Shāhzādpur. Lastly, there was a road running from east to west through this district, which connected Atia with Nātor in the Rājshāhi district ; Rennell's details are given in the margin. Santosh is in Mymensingh. Gundruckpur is possibly Gandharbhapur in this district. Belcuchy has already been mentioned. Dowlatpour is Daulatpur, 2 miles north of Salap (2 miles south of Khāmārkhandā). Burrum-

	M	F	Rivers
Attyah-San- toil	4	2	Lojung.
Gundruckpour	4	7	Joobnee
Belcuchy	9	3	Canal
Dowlatpour	7	1	2 nullahs
Burruncopileah	5	6	Fooljee
Tarwas	13	6	
Beera	7	4	Nullah
Gullam	8	1	Goor
Gobindpur	6	5	Atta
Nattore	5	0	

copileah is Brahmakopalia, 4 miles north of Ullāpāra on the Rāiganj road. Tarwas is Tārās. The other places are in the Nātor subdivision of the Rājshāhi district.

The following is a brief account of the principal roads now in existence :— Main roads.

The Pābna-Sirājganj road (*viā* Ataikula and Bera), sometimes called the new Pābna-Sirājganj road to distinguish it from the old road mentioned below *viā* Shāhzādpur and Ullāpāra, has a total length of 53 miles. At Berākola on the 27th mile a ferry plies all the year round over the river Hurāsāgar. There is an inspection bungalow at Ataikula on the 12th mile and another at Bera on the 27th mile.

The Pābna-Sāra road is 18 miles long. It passes over numerous waterways which are bridged, and there is a ferry which plies during the rains over the Ichhāmāti river below Pābna town. There is a rest-shed at Dasuria on the 12th mile and an inspection bungalow at Sāra on the 18th mile.

The old Pābna Sirājganj road (*via* Shāhzādpur and Ullāpāra), which has a length of 40 miles, takes off from the new Pābna-Sirājganj road at Ataikula, 12 miles from Pābna. It is partly raised and partly a surface track. Ferries ply all the year round over the Phuljhur river at Ullāpāra and over the Baral river at Rautara. There is an inspection bungalow at Ullāpāra, 15 miles from Sirājganj.

The Pābna-Mathura road (*via* Tāntiband and Dulai) is 28½ miles long. The portion of the road from Pabna to Tāntiband (12 miles) is raised and passable during floods. Ferries ply in the rainy season at Chāndipar, Porādānga and Kāsināthpur on the 13th, 14th and 25th miles. There is an inspection bungalow at Dulai on the 20th mile of the road. On the 8th mile a bridge carries it over the Koladi Jola and there are also bridges on the 11th mile at Sadullapur and on the 12th mile at Tāntiband.

The Pābna-Chātmohar road (39½ miles in length) branches off from Rānigrām on the 6th mile of the Pābna-Sāra road, and after passing through Chātmohar goes to Tārās and thence to Rānirhāt on the district boundary. The name is therefore only partly and not exhaustively descriptive. It is passable throughout the year up to Chātmohar, 18½ miles from Pābna, where there is an inspection bungalow. The remainder is passable in the dry season only. At Mulgrām on the 14th mile and at Chātmohar-Natunbazar on the 20th mile ferries ply during the rains; another ferry plies during the dry season on the 23rd mile at Baisha. There are small bridges on the 15th, 17th and 18th miles.

The Sirājganj-Bogra road *via* Nalka is 18½ miles long. A ferry plies across the Phuljhur river at Nalka all the year. This road is liable to be breached by floods and was seriously damaged by the unusually high floods of 1906, which left breaches at Betuali, Panchil, Chakipāra, Ghurka, Bhughāti, Sārāikhāl and Kishorkhāl on the 6th, 11th, 12th, 15th, 17th and 19th miles, respectively, so big that they could only be ferried across.

The Sirājganj-Bogra road *via* Pāngāsi and Dhāngora is the old road to Bogra and passes through two important marts at Pāngāsi and Dhāngora. The length of the road is 14½ miles. Ferries ply during floods over the Chandrakona Khāl (4th mile), the Bahuli river (4th mile), the Pāngāshi river (7th mile) and the Hashul Khāl (10th mile). On the 13th mile at Dhāngora a ferry plies all the year over the Phuljhur river.

At Sirājganj the road is carried over the Dhānbāndi river by a bridge of 120 feet in one span, of which an account will be found in the article on Sirājganj in the last chapter.

CHAPTER IX.

LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION.

LAND
TENURES

EXCEPT for the *diāra* area, where there has been a settlement, there is little detailed information about the land tenures; but generally speaking they have few peculiar features. There is a small number of *patni* tenures: the town of Pābna itself is held on such a tenure. The system of produce-rents is fairly common; under this the actual cultivator, who is known as *bargāit* or *bargādar*, provides the cattle, ploughs and half the seed, besides the labour, while the *jotdār*, from whom he holds, gives the land rent-free and half the seed, and each party receives half the produce.

In the *diāras* of the Ganges or Padma there are numerous *jotdārs*, some having tenures and some holdings, under the proprietors: all tenancies are called *jot*, sub-infeudation being expressed by the terms *dar* and *nim*. Holdings are very small in size, the average area being only $1\frac{1}{2}$ acre for a ryot paying a cash-rent and three-fifths of an acre for a ryot paying a produce-rent. More than a quarter of the land is let at a produce-rent. The ryots who pay produce-rents generally hold the same land for many years in succession, a son often succeeding his father; the rent almost invariably consists of half the crop in the case of paddy and of one-third in the case of jute. The landlords generally do not supply the seed, but if they do, they take half the straw as well as half the paddy. Produce-rents are on the average more than four times the cash-rents in this locality and as the cultivator does not get a fair return for his labour, the land is not so carefully cultivated as that for which a cash-rent is paid: the average cash-rent of settled and occupancy-ryots is Rs. 2-12-9 an acre. Altogether 9 per cent. of the ryot's land is sublet to under-ryots, whose holdings average only six-tenths of an acre.*

In most of the villages in the Jamuna *diāras* cultivating ryots hold directly under the proprietors. There are a few *patnis*, but very little other sub-infeudation. The ryot-holdings

* R. C. Franco, Final Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in the Riparian Areas of District Pābna, 1916.

are known by the name of *jots*. Most were created before the land was brought under cultivation. The average size of a holding was found to be 2·80 acres. For the most part the ryots have a right of occupancy; those not so recorded being chiefly new settlers in the recently reformed *char* villages. Three hundred and eighty-seven tenancies were recorded in the names of persons who had taken possession of *char* lands without the express permission of the landlord. This is an every-day occurrence; the occupiers sooner or later gain recognition, i.e., a cash-rent is fixed. They have therefore been recorded as ryots. The rent-free tenancies are mostly *chākraṇ* and *pirpāl* tenancies. The former are granted to washermen, barbers, *mālis*, etc.; the latter have a religious origin. Transfers of ryoti-holdings or more generally of part holdings occur frequently, but they are never recognized by the landlords until the customary *salāmi* is paid. Nevertheless the landlord seldom attempts to evict the purchaser even of an entire holding, as such a proceeding would tend to discourage the practice of transfer, which is a source of great profit to the landlord. In recent years there is a growing tendency for the land to pass into the hands of the money-lending class, who sublet at very high rates, often to the very tenant against whom they have got a decree. The tendency is equally marked in the case of *khās mahāls*, where transfers are recognized without any exaction of *salāmi*.*

According to the returns for 1920-21 there are 1,966 estates on the *tauzi* roll, with a current demand of land revenue amounting to Rs. 4,42,475: of these 1,814 are permanently-settled, 68 are temporarily-settled and 84 (with a current demand of Rs. 50,741) are held direct by Government. At the end of the year there were no less than 4,613 separate accounts.

ESTATES

A survey and settlement of the riverain area in the bed and on the bank of the Jamuna were carried out in connection with the Mymensingh settlement, in order that both banks of this constantly shifting river might be mapped as they stood in one season. The survey was begun at the end of 1911 and was followed by a record-of-rights, the records being finally published in 1916-17. The area taken up was 164 square miles with 235 villages. More than 70 per cent. of the area falls in the three Mymensingh *parganas* of Atia (Tangail), Bāra Bāju and Kāgmāri and portions appertain to Yusufshāhi (Isupshāhi) of this district, Sena Bāju (Rājshāhi) and Demrāi (Bogra).

SURVEYS
AND SETTLE-
MENTS.

* F. A. Sachse, Mymensingh Survey and Settlement Report, 1920.

**ROAD AND
PUBLIC
WORKS
CESSES**

The number of estates assessed to road and public works cesses in 1920-21 was 2,008, viz., 1,946 revenue-paying estates, 45 revenue-free estates and 17 rent-free lands, and the total current demand was Rs. 1,18,638. The number of separate accounts was 4,300. There were also 6,562 tenures assessed to cesses. The gross rental of the district is now Rs. 28,02,226 compared with the valuation of Rs. 15,14,755 made when road-cess was first assessed under Act X of 1871—an increase of Rs. 12,87,491.

**RELATIONS
OF LAND-
LORDS AND
TENANTS**

Many large properties belong to non-resident zamindārs, while minor estates have been split up and sublet to a large extent. This has closely affected the position of the tenants, for the power of landlords is greatest in compact well-managed estates under resident proprietors and is weakened where estates are subdivided and there are a number of petty shareholders constantly squabbling. As a result of this state of affairs, combinations of tenants against landlords are fairly common in the district, more especially in the Strājganj subdivision, where cases arising from disputes between landlords and tenants occupy much of the Subdivisional Officer's time. The most remarkable instance of such combinations is the agrarian movement of 1873 described in Chapter II, by which the cultivators defeated their landlords' attempts to enhance their rent-rolls. This led Sir William Hunter to remark in 1876 in the preface to the ninth volume of the Statistical Account of Bengal dealing with Pābna—"The rural population have proved themselves quick to appreciate and to act upon the rights which English rule secures to rich and poor." They have fought out with keen persistence, but with few ebullitions of violence, the struggle between landlord and tenant, and are conducting before our eyes an agrarian revolution by due course of law."

At the same time the power of the zamindārs appears to have been always much greater than in the districts of Eastern Bengal. From time immemorial the rural administration has been practically in their hands. If, for instance, two tenants have a dispute, the matter is commonly taken to the zamindār's outcherry for settlement, and frequently, if a crime is committed, the zamindār or his agent decides whether the police should be informed, or when a complaint is made, the offending party is sent for and the case heard. If it is merely a dispute about the possession of land, the case may be disposed of out-of-hand by deciding who shall have possession, but in cases of misconduct fines are often imposed. Much useful work is done

by the prompt disposal of petty disputes on the spot, and, in practice, a cultivator can get redress from petty wrongs without the expense of a trial before a distant court; but the system is obviously open to abuse, *e.g.*, crimes may be hushed up and never reported to the authorities, and when reported, delay is caused by the parties going first to the zamīndār's cutcherry. The system is, in any case, acquiesced in by the cultivators themselves, largely because of the fear that recalcitrance, *e.g.*, refusal to pay a fine, would entail loss of their holdings. The power of the zamīndārs to enforce their will rests on the insecurity of the cultivator's tenure. The ordinary occupancy-ryot has, as a rule, no *patta* the only documents from which he can prove title are generally rent-receipts, and these do not show what land he holds. In the event of litigation he is dependent on oral evidence of possession for proof of his right to any particular plot. In the case of Muhammadans, moreover, claims are easily trumped up owing to the operation of the Moslem law of inheritance. When a man's property is divided after his death, there is usually no record of the partition and it is easy for an astute *naib* to bring an obnoxious tenant to book by unearthing, say, a brother's widow who has remarried in another village and getting her to make a colourable claim to the land and to execute a conveyance in favour of some creature of the zamīndār.

The levy of *abwābs*, or contributions over and above the regular rent, prevails in most zamīndāris. Their levy, when the zamīndār has unusual expenses to meet, *e.g.*, a marriage, is a matter of old custom, and so long as the demand is kept within customary limits, no serious objections are made: the cultivators would rather pay a casual demand of this kind than consent to an enhancement of rent or run the risk of incurring the zamīndār's enmity. His power to levy such cesses is, in fact, limited by custom and the capacity of the tenant to pay: he could not enforce payment against organized opposition and it is not worth his while to stir up a combination by unduly exorbitant demands. Peasable enough in ordinary times, the Pābna peasants are excitable and ready to resort to violence if there is a mass movement. Moreover, a landlord can generally manage to induce the more influential tenants to pay a moderate demand; they have the largest holdings, occupy, it may be, the most land in excess of what they pay rent for, and have most to lose from a quarrel with the landlord. If they can be induced not to demur, others will not stand out.

GOVERN-
MENT KHAS-
MANALA.

The following is a statement of the Government *khāsmahāls* in the district : the letter D shows those which are *diāra* estates, and the letter J those which are *jalkar* :

Police- station to which situated.	Name	Tauzi No.	Area in acres	Annual demand of rent.
				Rs A. P.
Mathura (Bera)	Aluklia <i>alias</i> Char Baisnabi ... D	101	815	1,225 0 0
Sujanagar	Island Char Khānpur D	2140	10'90	1,176 11 0
	Island Char Mukharj D	2141	742	1,149 9 0
	Jādubājra ... D	2154	7	7 14 7
Pabna ...	Bharsa ... D	117	404	230 14 0
	Char Niyāmatullapur D	1726	45	139 0 6
	Char Balarāmpur ... D	1902	1,985	1,718 5 11
Sāra ...	Island Char Dādapur D	1780	272	72 19 3
	Semul Chora ... D	1838	523	662 14 0
	Kururia Digar ... D	2152	2,580	2,260 5 0
Sirājganj ...	Barasimul ... D	1755	804	1,069 8 6
	Tāluk Baneswar Das D	1837	58	41 1 9
	Island Char Bell* ... D	1908	1,425	1,393 6 3
	Tāluk Padma Loc- tān Ghose ... D	1140	562	423 11 9
	Chatte Kāim Khān D	1671	Not known	1 1 0
	Tāluk Manil Ram Gobinda Ram Sarma D	1790	615	618 2 0
	Tāluk Rām Prasād Neogi ... D	1793	179	47 1 10
	Char Dehua ... D	1794	67	41 0 6
	Tāluk Yarmamud ... D	1796	507	276 10 6

* Named after Sir Nicholas Bontaga-Bell, formerly Subdivisional Officer of Sirājganj.

Police- station in which situated.	Name	Tauzi No.	Area in acres.	Annual demand of rent.
				Rs. A. P.
Sirāṅganj— <i>concl'd.</i>	Taluk Lol Mamul ... D	1797	333	329 15 0
	Taluk Fajal ... D	1839	40	20 11 0
	Taluk Derap ... D	1840	40	23 7 6
	Taluk Benode Rām Ditta ... D	2111	123	91 10 6
	Char Girish Monam D	2203	1 037	904 7 0
Shāhẓādpur	Kurki ... D	1782	440	341 3 3
	Sakpāl " .. D	1893	351	824 5 0
	REGISTER No. 32 (II)			
Mathura (Bera) ...	Durgapur ... D	1729	40	57 8 0
Sāinthia ...	Jalkar Asbuda ... J	1778	...	150 0 0
	Jalkar Eranda Bahuti J	1765	...	30 0 0
Sujānagar	Char Srikrishnapur D	2200	1,003	1,042 0 0
Chātmohar	Jalkar Porāgbāti ... J	1769	...	61 8 0
	Jalkar Faziljana ... J	1770	...	86 8 0
	Jalkar Kachua ... J	1772	...	82 8 0
	Jalkar Badal ... J	1176	...	19 8 0
	Jalkar Demra ... J	1767	...	360 0 0
Shāhẓādpur	Jalkar Nāgdunra ... J	1766	...	300 0 0
	Jalkar Lathailhāt ... J	1774	...	150 0 0
Ullāpāra ...	Jalkar Saiderbād ... J	1778	...	16 0 0
Sirāṅganj ...	Ghandani Chaidya Khada ... D	1795	119	105 0 0
	Taluk Jugdhar Gandhādhar ... D	1801	97	28 0 0
	Taluk Gour Krishna Jiban ... D	355	459	313 0 0
	Island Char Jamunā- bāli ... D	2097	724	180 0 0

Police-station in which situated.*	Name	Tauzi No	Area in acres.	Annual demand of rent.
	REGISTER No. 33 (II)			Ra. A P
Sāra ...	Nāmjāḍ Bahur Char D	1725	7,574	7,991 9 0
	Diāra Tāluk Gopi Sundari Dāsya ... D	2212	122	158 1 0
	Diāra Tāluk Rai Kamalini and others D	2213	31	77 10 0
	Diāra Tāluk Dharendra Nath Ray ... D	2216	47	115 3 0
	REGISTER No 32 (II)			
	Diāra Tāluk Bhabendra Chandra Ray and others ... D	2217	31	63 13 0
	Diāra Tāluk Ganesh Janani Debi and others ... D	2218	29	63 6 0
	Diāra Tāluk Nareesh Narayan Ray and others ... D	2224	16	18 15 0
	Diāra Tāluk Hemanta Kumar Ray and others ... D	2226	38	56 3 0
	Diāra Tāluk Raja Pramada Bhusan Deb ... D	2227	28	34 10 0
	Char Dādapor ... D	1733	1,295	478 7 4
	Char Paburia ... D	1727	38	44 11 6
Suyānagar	Diāra Tāluk Gopi Sundari Dāsya ... D	2159	131	336 0 0
	Diāra Tāluk Husain Chaudhuri ... D	2163	21	64 12 0
	Diāra Tāluk Jnanada Govinda Chaudhuri D	2164	7	20 6 0
	Diāra Tāluk Sriish Govinda Chaudhuri D	2165	17	46 6 0

Police-station in which situated.	Name.	Tauzi No.	Area in acres	Annual demand of rent
				Rs. A. P.
Mathura (Bera) ...	Char Panchakola ... D	1702	1,523.0	2,511 3 0
Pābna ...	Bāsudhupur ... D	2104	346	533 8 10
	Modhupur ... D	2139	312	522 3 6
Srāyganj	Char Bania Gānti ... D	1747	233	362 4 3
	Randhumbāri ... D	1704	101	191 10 3
	Rājābāri Kālkāpur D	1745	1,081	1,935 7 9
	Bag Chaura Digar ... D	1707	1,690	607 13 3
	Syāmgop ... D	1736	205	285 10 0
	Bora Berakhauria .. D	1748	170	123 1 3
	Chhata Bera Kharua D	1749	203	213 7 3
	Derta Char and Barni D	1754	447	227 6 3
	Gatia Aknadihi ... D	2112	922	921 8 6
Shāhzādpur	Māma ... D	1716	486	364 1 3
	Narkair Sufaltāla ... D	1720	248	91 5 0
	Nandina Mādhu ... D	1722	200	158 1 9
	Char Marakadan ... D	1718	152	361 7 9
	Kimnat Kawalia ... D	1738	3,116	501 11 10
	Pukhuriā Digar ... D	1739	2,644	3,504 5 3
	Kawālia Digar ... D	1740	4,771	2,378 9 4
	Ghusuria Digar ... D	1829	63	100 5 11
	Mirkutia Digar ... D	1830	4,460	5,842 12 2
	Hijulia Digar ... D	1835	901	696 3 6
	Chauheria Digar ... D	2156	111	104 9 0

Police-station in which situated.	Name	Tauzi No.	Area in acres	Annual demand of rent.
				Rs. A. P.
Shāhzādpur — <i>concd</i>	Char Metuan ... D	2157	85	342 5 2
	Ditto ... D	2158	121	235 9 6
	Char Salimabād ... D	2201	160	595 8 2
	Char Nakālia ... D	2202	273	145 7 9
	Shāhpur Digar ... D	1737	1,690	1,526 8 3
	Dhalai ... D	1743	969	196 5 6
	Atiapāra (II) ... D	2233	144	281 3 5

Parganas

The *parganas* of the district are shown in the following statement, which gives in the case of *parganas* lying in more than one police-station the principal different police-stations in which they are situated and also in the case of those *parganas* the whole or the greater part of which lies within the ambit of a single police-station the names of those police-stations :—

Name of <i>pargana</i> .	Police-stations principally included in the <i>pargana</i>	Name of <i>pargana</i> .	Police-station in which the <i>pargana</i> is principally situated.
Atia	Chauhāli ...	Amirābād ...	Bera.
	Sāinthia ...	...	...
	Shāhzādpur ...	Belgāchi ...	Sujānagar.
Bāju Chappa	Atgharia ...	Bhar Fatehjangpur.	Pābna.
	Pābna ...	...	...
	Sāinthia ...	...	...
	Sujānagar ...	Datia Jahāngirpur.	Rāiganj.

Name of pargana.	Police-stations principally included in the pargana.	Name of pargana.	Police-station in which the pargana is principally situated.
Bājūrās Mahābatpur	{ Atgharia ... Sāra ...	... Gaibāta ...	... Ullāpāra.
Bājūrās Nāzīrpur	{ Atgharia ... Pābua ... Sāra ...	Gangārāmpur Hāndāl ...	Chātmohar. ... Chātmohar
Barabāju ..	{ Kāzipur .. Rāiganj .. Sirājganj ..	Kāntanagar ... Kāsimnagar ... Khatra ...	Sāra Bera Pābua
Bhāturia ...	{ Atgharia ... Chātmohar ... Tārās ..	Kururia ... Lashkarpur .. Loknāthpur ...	Sāra id. id.
Birhampur ...	{ Bera ... Pābua ... Sānthia .. Sujānagar ...	Nasthshāhi ... Nāzīr Inaitpur ... Nāzīrpur ... Nijbājūrās ...	Sujānagar. id Farīdpur. Sāra
Islāmpur ...	{ Pābua ... Sāra ... Sujānagar ...	Pratāpāju Pukuria ...	Atgharia ... Sirājganj.
Kāgmāri ...	{ Kāzipur ... Sirājganj ...	... Rokanpur ...	... Pābua.
Kātārmahāl ...	{ Chātmohar ... Rāiganj ... Tārās ... Ullāpāra ...	Shāh Aujāl ... Silbaras ... Sujābād ... Tārāgunia ...	Sāra Tārās Bera. Sāra.
Mihmānshāhi ...	{ Rāiganj ... Tārās ...	Ukha Umarpur ...	Ullāpāra. ...